

Ser. No.: 09/830,773
Group Art Unit: 3727
February 11, 2003
Page 2

In the Claims (clean version of entire set of pending claims - 37 CFR

1.121(c)(1)(i) and 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3)):

Rewrite claims 16, 18, and 28 as follows:

16. (amended) A support structure for bicycle bottles, comprising a unitary supporting three dimensional cage frame, anchoring means for attachment thereof to a bicycle frame, said supporting frame comprising a rear anchoring post with an upper end from which two substantially symmetrical and diverging arms extend so as to embrace the lateral wall of a bottle, the lower ends of said arms converging and being reciprocally joined so as to form a lower appendix directed towards said post and adapted to support the bottom wall of the bottle, said arms and said post being located along a substantially cylindrical surface having an inner diameter that is slightly larger than the diameter of the bottle to be supported, said arms comprising a first portion directed upwardly and forwardly from said upper end of said rear anchoring post, and a second portion directed downwardly and forwardly from said first portion, which portions are continuously connected and bent along a curved space line with no sharp bends, said arms having inside edges having lower converging ends and a span that is continuously increasing along said first portion and continuously decreasing along said second portion towards said lower appendix.

17. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein the span between the inside edges of said lower converging ends has a maximum value smaller than or equal to the half of said inner diameter at a distance from said appendix that is substantially equal to said inner diameter.

Ser. No.: 09/830,773
Group Art Unit: 3727
February 11, 2003
Page 3

18. (amended) Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said inner diameter has a predetermined size ranging between 40 mm and 50 mm and preferably equal to approximately 45 mm so as to be smaller than those of traditional bicycle support structures and to reduce the transversal encumbrance of the supporting frame.

19. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said arms and said post are unitarily formed and in that they have a substantially plate configuration with plane cross-section so as to define a monolithic supporting frame.

20. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said supporting frame is formed starting from a metal plate or from a plastic sheet.

21. Support for bottle according to claim 16, wherein said supporting frame is provided with one or more lightening holes peripherally located along said arms.

22. Support structure according to claim 16, wherein said supporting frame is provided with means for gripping the bottle located along said arms.

23. Support structure according to claim 22, wherein said gripping means comprise at least a resilient pad.

24. Support structure according to claim 23, wherein said gripping means comprise at least a planar element made of a relatively rigid material that houses internally thereof a pad made of a resiliently flexible material.

Ser. No.: 09/830,773
Group Art Unit: 3727
February 11, 2003
Page 4

25. Support structure according to claim 23, wherein said resiliently flexible pad comprises a rigid spherical member held in place by a boss made of a resiliently flexible material.

26. Support structure according to claim 23, wherein said resiliently flexible material is chosen in the group comprising gels, rubbers or plastic materials.

27. Support structure according to claim 22, wherein said gripping means comprises at least a pad of rubber or plastic material located along said post.

28. (amended) Support structure according to claim 26, wherein each pad has at least one transverse curved groove so shaped to permit downward insertion and preventing easy upward removal of a bottle within said support frame.

29. Support structure according to claim 26, wherein said gripping means further comprises at least one rubber or plastics lips fitted onto the upper edges of said arms to further hold the bottle upon location thereof into said supporting frame.